

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at line 26 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

B' The induction of the various cellular responses mediated by TNF is initiated by its interaction with two distinct cell surface receptors of approximately 55 kDa (also called TNF-R1) and 75 kDa (also called TNF-R2). The extracellular soluble portions of these receptors, called respectively TBP-1 (TNF Binding Protein-1) and (TBP-2 (TNF Binding Protein-2), have been isolated and cloned (see EP patents 308 378, 398 327 and ~~EP patent Application 433 900~~U.S. patent 5,811,261).